

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 079935  
ORIGIN EUR-12

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/027 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:RAMOSHER:LM  
APPROVED BY EUR: J. A. ARMITAGE  
-----090742Z 005507 /13  
R 090002Z APR 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SOFIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, OVIP, PFOR, BU

SUBJECT: ARMITAGE.POPOV MEETING - APRIL 7, 2:00 PM

1. AMBASSADOR POPOV CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY ARMITAGE (EUR) ON APRIL 7 TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT, THE THRACIAN EXHIBIT AND LUDMILA ZHIVKOVA'S POSSIBLE VISIT TO WASHINGTON, AND THE MAREV CASE (REPORTED SEPTTEL).
  2. POPOV WAS NOT CERTAIN OF THE STATUS OF THE NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING THE CULTURAL/SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES AGREEMENT AND PROGRAM DOCUMENT, AND ASKED IF WE HAD MADE ANY PLANS FOR ITS SIGNING AND IF THE TWO WERE TO BE SIGNED TOGETHER. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT WE HAD NOT MADE PLANS FOR THEIR SIGNING, AND THAT THEY WERE TO BE SIGNED TOGETHER. HE NOTED THAT OUR EMBASSY HAD AGREED THAT THE SIGNING COULD TAKE PLACE IN MARCH BUT IT WAS NOW APRIL AND WE HAD NOT EVEN RECEIVED THE BULGARIAN LANGUAGE TEXT OF THE PROGRAM IN ORDER TO RECONCILE IT WITH THE ENGLISH VERSION. HE
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PAGE 02 STATE 079935

ASKED THE AMBASSADOR TO URGE HIS SUPERIORS TO RESUME MOVEMENT ON THIS QUESTION.

3. POPOV NEXT RAISED THE THRACIAN EXHIBIT, WHICH HE SAID OPENS IN EARLY JUNE. HE STATED THAT THE METROPOLITAN HAS ASKED ABOUT THE INSURING OF THE EXHIBIT AND THAT

THE DEPARTMENT HAD REPLIED. HOWEVER, HE NOTED, THE PROTECTION OF THE EXHIBIT AGAINST JUDICIAL SEIZURE OR ATTACHMENT HAD NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED. ARMITAGE REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT ANTICIPATE ANY GREAT DIFFICULTY WITH THAT POINT.

4. THE AMBASSADOR THEN ASKED WHAT THE PROSPECTS WERE FOR GETTING AN INVITATION TO VISIT WASHINGTON FOR MADAME ZHIVKOVA. ARMITAGE SAID THAT HE DID NOT THINK THERE WAS ANY PROBLEM THERE, AMBASSADOR HERZ COULD INVITE HER ON BEHALF OF U.S.G. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. DOES NOT HAVE ANY ORGANIZATION OR AGENCY COMPARABLE TO THE COMMITTEE FOR ART AND CULTURE AND WE GENERALLY HAVE PROBLEMS WITH "OFFICIAL HOSTS" FOR VISITS OF THIS TYPE. ARMITAGE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN ARRANGING AN INTERESTING PROGRAM FOR ZHIVKOVA. AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES OF DISCUSSION REGARDING THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF THE VISIT POPOV SAID IT SHOULD PROBABLY BE FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS. ARMITAGE AGREED TO SEE IF IT WERE POSSIBLE FOR HEW SECRETARY CALIFANO OR DR. BOORSTIN, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, TO HOST A SOCIAL FUNCTION FOR MADAME ZHIVKOVA. IT WAS ALSO GENERALLY AGREED THAT HER OTHER MEETINGS COULD PROBABLY INCLUDE CALLS ON THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND DR. BOORSTIN, THE SMITHSONIAN, THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY DUFFY (CU). IT WAS ALSO AGREED THE BULGARIANS WOULD PAY HER EXPENSES.

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PAGE 03 STATE 079935

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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